



Congresswoman Gabrielle Giffords  
Arizona's Eighth Congressional District

U.S. Rep. Gabrielle Giffords has introduced and/or co-sponsored four pieces of solar energy legislation since the 111<sup>th</sup> Congress convened on January 6. A summary is below.

**H.R. 175** – A bill to increase federal use of renewable energy by providing additional authority relating to public utility contracts. Current statute prevents the General Services Administration from signing an energy procurement contract for more than 10 years. If solar power providers could amortize their costs over 20 years or longer, they could provide electricity at a competitive cost. This bill would amend current law to allow the GSA to enter into power purchase agreements for up to 25 years. The bill was introduced by Rep. Adam Schiff of California. Congresswoman Giffords is an original cosponsor.

**H.R. 546** – *Solar Stimulus for Job Creation and Energy Independence Act*. This bill contains numerous incentives for solar manufacturing and deployment, including making the Investment Tax Credit refundable through 2010, creating a 30 percent refundable tax credit for solar manufacturing property, revising the GSA procurement rules, and other provisions. This bill was introduced by Rep. Mike Thompson of California. Congresswoman Giffords is an original cosponsor.

**H.R. 576** – *Solar Manufacturing Advancement Act*. This bill would create a 30 percent tax credit for the purchase of equipment used to manufacture solar technologies and provide for a 5 year depreciation period for such equipment. This bill was introduced by Congresswoman Giffords.

**Amendment to H.R. 1**, the *American Recovery and Reinvestment Act* – The economic stimulus legislation that passed the House on January 28 establishes a grant program, in lieu of tax credits, for renewable energy projects placed in service before the end of 2010. Congresswoman Giffords' amendment would have expanded the eligibility for these grants to projects that begin construction before the end of 2010, thereby making the program more applicable to large-scale solar facilities with long development times. The amendment was not accepted by the Rules Committee.